

Amendment to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a nucleic acid sequence ~~selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences consisting of Sequence ID Numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 44, 45, 46, 49, 50, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 104, 106, 108, 110 and 113 or the sequences of nucleotides identified in Figures 9 to 13~~ that is at least 70% homologous to SEQ ID No: 1.

2. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* and wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a nucleic acid sequence [selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences consisting of Sequence ID Numbers 1, 2, 3, 5, 10, 11, 12, 14, 16, 17, 18, 46, 49, 50, 52, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 97, 99, 101, 104, 106, 108, and 110, or fragments or derivatives of said nucleic acid molecules] that is a fragment or derivative of SEQ ID No: 1.

3. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences consisting of Sequence ID Numbers 20, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 45, 65, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 81, 83, 85, 113, and fragments or derivatives of said nucleic acid molecules.

4. (Currently Amended) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* wherein the nucleic acid molecule ~~has a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences consisting of sequence ID Nos 1 and 91~~ consists of SEQ ID No: 1.

5. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* wherein the nucleic acid molecule has a nucleic acid sequence selected from the group of nucleic acid sequences consisting of Sequence ID Numbers 4, 6 to 9, 13, 15, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 56, 58, 62, 64, 66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 86, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 112, and 114 or the sequences identified in Figures 14 and 15.
6. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which is mRNA.
7. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 which is DNA.
8. (Original) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 7 which is cDNA.
9. (Previously Presented) A nucleic acid molecule capable of hybridising to the molecules according to claim 1 under high stringency conditions.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 9 which is an~~ An antisense molecule consisting of from 10 to 50 base pairs in length complementary to the nucleic acid molecule of claim 1.
11. (Previously Presented) A polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.
12. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide which is critical for survival and growth of the yeast *Candida albicans* having the amino acid sequences selected from the group consisting of Sequence ID Numbers 4, 6 to 9, 13, 15, 19, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 43, 47, 48, 51, 53, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 98, 100, 102, 103, 105, 107, 109, 111, 112, and 114.

13. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to claim 12 having an amino acid sequence of any of Sequence ID Numbers 4, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 36, 38, 40, 42, 66, 68, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 82, 84, 86 and 114.
14. (Withdrawn) A polypeptide according to claim 12 having an amino acid sequence of any of Sequence ID Nos 43 or 92.
15. (Previously Presented) An expression vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 7.
16. (Original) An expression vector according to claim 15 which comprises an inducible promoter.
17. (Previously Presented) An expression vector according to claim 15 which comprises a sequence encoding a reporter molecule.
18. Canceled.
19. Canceled.
20. Canceled.
21. Canceled.
22. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1 or a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid of claim 1 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier diluent or excipient therefor.
23. (Withdrawn) A *Candida albicans* cell comprising an induced mutation in the DNA sequence encoding a polypeptide according to claim 11.

24. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying compounds which selectively modulate expression of polypeptides which are crucial for growth and survival of *Candida albicans*, comprising the steps of:
- (a) contacting a compound to be tested with one or more *Candida albicans* cells having a mutation in a nucleic acid molecule corresponding to the sequences according to any of claims 1 to 8 which mutation results in overexpression or underexpression of said polypeptides, in addition to contacting one or more wild type *Candida albicans* cells with said compound,
 - (b) monitoring the growth and/or activity of said mutated cell compared to said wild type; wherein differential growth or activity of said one or more mutated *Candida* cells is indicative of selective action of said compound on a polypeptide or another polypeptide in the same or a parallel pathway.
25. (Withdrawn) A compound identifiable according to the method of claim 24.
26. (Withdrawn) The compound of claim 25 in medicament.
27. Canceled.
28. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to claim 26 together with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, diluent or excipient therefor.
29. (Withdrawn) A method of identifying DNA sequences from a cell or organism which DNA encodes polypeptides which are critical for growth or survival of said cell or organism, which method comprises:
- (a) preparing a cDNA or genomic library from said cell or organism in a suitable expression vector which vector is such that it can either integrate into the genome in said cell or that it permits transcription of antisense RNA from the nucleotide sequences in said cDNA or genomic library,

(b) selecting transformants exhibiting impaired growth and determining the nucleotide sequence of the cDNA or genomic sequence from the library included in the vector from said transformant.

30. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29 wherein said cell or organism is a yeast or filamentous fungi.

31. (Withdrawn) The method according to claim 29 wherein said cell or organism is selected from the group consisting of *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, *Saccharomyces pombe* or *Candida albicans*.

32. (Withdrawn) A plasmid, pGAL1PsiST-1, having the sequence of nucleotides illustrated in Figure 8.

33. (Withdrawn) A plasmid, pGAL1PniST-1, having the sequence of nucleotides illustrated in Figure 7.

34. (Withdrawn) An antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide according to any of claims 11.

35. (Previously Presented) An oligonucleotide comprising a fragment of from 10 to 50 contiguous nucleic acid sequences of a nucleic acid molecule according to claim 1.

36. Canceled.

37. Canceled.

38. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting the presence of *Candida albicans* in a subject comprising the steps of contacting a sample to be tested with at least one nucleic acid molecule according to claim 10 and detecting hybridization of the nucleic acid molecule to said sample.

39. (Withdrawn) A kit for detecting *Candida albicans* infection comprising a nucleic acid molecule capable of hybridizing to the nucleic acid molecules of claim 1.
40. (Withdrawn) The nucleic acid molecule of claim 1 wherein the nucleic acid molecule is selected from the group consisting of Sequence ID Numbers 18, 21, 29, 31, 33, 44, 76, 80 and the sequences identified in Figures 9 and 13.
41. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 5 which is mRNA.
42. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule according to claim 5 which is DNA.
43. (Withdrawn) A nucleic acid molecule capable of hybridizing to the molecules of claim 5 under high stringency conditions.
44. (Withdrawn) A medicament comprising nucleic acid having at least one of the sequences of claim 5.
45. (Withdrawn) A medicament comprising the polypeptide of claim 12.
46. (Withdrawn) A method for treating a vertebrate with a *Candida albicans* associated disease comprising contacting the vertebrate with the medicament of claim 44.
47. (Withdrawn) A method for detecting the presence of *Candida albicans* in a subject comprising the steps of contacting a sample to be tested with the antibody of claim 34 and detecting antibody binding to said sample.
48. (Withdrawn) A kit for detecting *Candida albicans* infection comprising an antibody capable of binding to a polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecules of claim 1.